

just must stress the fact that the committee amendments, in conjunction with the rest of the bill, let the big district control reorganization within your county.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the committee amendments? There are no lights on. Senator Withem, would you care to close?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, I would be delighted to close. I was all set to say, waive closing, but we have a member here who would ask for another summary. I will quickly summarize those for the benefit of that member. Currently, currently, all members of boards of education meet together once every four years to pick their county reorganization committees. All members of those boards get to vote on all of the representatives. Consequently, what you can have and do have, in some cases, are Class I school board members voting on who they want to have as a representative for the Class III districts, or, conceivably, you could have it the other way around, I suppose, if there were a county who was dominated by Class III school districts and only one Class I. My county, for instance, in my county it could work the other way. The Class III folks could get together and pick some ringer from the Class I district to represent that Class I district. This says each class gets to pick their own. We are expanding the number from...the law says the committee will be from 6 to 10, we are saying 7 to 12 as a more reasonable number so that we can get more proportional representation, the larger number so we can make sure that people tend to get represented. We are saying that the portion that will be based...currently it says on population, we are saying that population will be the school census and that is, basically, as I understand, the way it's being done now anyway. And we are saying that vacancies on these committees will be filled by a appointment from the affected district, in other words, if a Class III...if a person elected to represent a Class III or a Class I resigns, if that person that comes in will be a representative, a landowner, a member of the school board, what have you, from that particular category. That is what these amendments do. I would urge you to adopt the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You have heard the closing. The question is, shall the committee amendments to LB 444 be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Withem.